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: 283,120

Appl. No. Filed

March 31, 1999

REMARKS

Claims 1-52 are pending in this application. The Examiner withdrew Claims 1-37 and 41-52 from consideration, and rejected Claims 38-40. In particular, the Examiner rejected Claims 38-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Fisher et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,835,896 (the "Fisher patent"), Barzilai et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,012,045 (the "Barzilai patent"), and Mori et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,044,363 (the "Mori patent").

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 38-40 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Fisher Patent

The Examiner rejected Claims 38-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the Fisher patent.

According to the Examiner, the Fisher patent discloses an online product auction system, including microprocessor and storage media (e.g., figure 1; column 7, line 24 et seq), first and second bid data with first, second, third, and fourth bids, the second and fourth bids (e.g., proxy bids) (figure 7) being at least as large as the first and third bids, respectively (e.g., column 9, line 17 et seq), bid processing module (e.g., column 10, line 5 et seq; column 11, line 20 et seq), current and new high bid (e.g., figures 6-10; column 9, line 1 et seq; column 10, line 40 et seq; column 11, line 65 et seq). Also, according to the Examiner, the Fisher patent discloses first and second calculation modes to calculate a high bid in first and second respective states (e.g., "Dutch Auction" and "Progressive Auction" formats) (e.g., column 10, line 29 et seq). In view of the following discussion, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as previously pending are patentably distinguished over the Fisher patent the other cited references or any combination thereof. As cited by the Examiner at column 9, line 17 et seq of the Fisher patent:

"The <u>bid manager</u> then <u>checks</u> 67 to see if there are any active <u>proxy bids marked as unsuccessful</u>. A proxy bid is a special bid type that allows auction manager 26 to <u>automatically bid on the bidder's behalf up to a limited amount established by the bidder</u>

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when his or her initial bid is placed. The auction manager will increase the bid as necessary up to the limit amount." (emphasis added)

Therefore, the Applicant asserts that the Fisher patent teaches an invention that comprises a bid manager that checks for bids marked as unsuccessful and automatically bids (i.e. increases a bidder's bid) on a bidder's behalf, up to a limited amount established by the bidder at the time the initial bid is placed by the bidder. Thus, the Applicant asserts that the portions of the Fisher patent cited by the Examiner teach an automatic bid incrementation system based on an amount entered by a bidder when the bidder enters the initial bid.

Because the reference cited by the Examiner does not disclose, teach or suggest an invention comprising a first bid data, including a first bid and a second bid (second bid being at least as large as the first bid) and a second bid data, including a third bid and a fourth bid (fourth bid being at least as large as the third bid), Applicant asserts that Claims 38 and 40 are not anticipated by the Fisher patent. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that Claims 38 and 40 are patentably distinguished over the cited reference and Applicant respectfully requests allowance of Claims 38 and 40.

Claims 39 which depends from Claim 38, is patentable for the same reasons articulated above with respect to Claim 38, and because of the additional features recited in Claim 39.

The Barzilai Patent

The Examiner rejected Claims 38-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the Barzilai patent.

According to the Examiner, the Barzilai patent discloses an online product auction system (e.g., column 1, line 52 et seq), including microprocessor and storage media (e.g., Figure 1), first and second bid data with first through fourth bids, wherein the second and fourth bids are at least as large as the first and third bids, respectively (e.g., Figures 6A-10; column 2, line 1 et seq; column 6, line 1 et seq; column 13, line 25 et seq; column 14, line 10 et seq; column 15, line 60 et seq), bid processing module (e.g., column 2, line 41 et seq; column 13, line 26 et seq), current and new high bid calculation (e.g., Figure 7; column 2, line 41 et seq; column 17, line 17 et seq; column 18, line 8 et seq). Also, according to the Examiner, the Barzilai patent discloses first and

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second calculation modes in first and second respective states (e.g., real play versus game play) (e.g., column 2, line 41 et seq; column 20, line 11 et seq). In view of the following discussion, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as previously pending are patentably distinguished over the Barzilai patent the other cited references or any combination thereof. As cited by the Examiner at column 2, line 1 et seq of the Barzilai patent:

"It is an additional object of the present invention to permit the user to place a reasonable number of bids (up to 8 bids in a preferred embodiment) on a single product or service whereby the system accepts (a) the highest bid submitted by all bidding customers and (b) excludes all bids greater than the lowest high bid from a group of bids submitted by a single bidder for the *particular product or service." (emphasis added)

Therefore, the Applicant asserts that the portions of the Barzilai patent cited by the Examiner teach an invention that allows a bidder to place multiple bids on product or service, but excludes those bids greater than the lowest high bid from the multiple bids submitted by the bidder. Thus, the Barzilai invention acts as an acceptance filter for multiple incoming bids from a single user, thereby protecting a bidder from placing a bid that is unnecessarily high.

Because the reference cited by the Examiner does not disclose, teach or suggest an invention comprising a first bid data, including a first bid and a second bid (second bid being at least as large as the first bid) and a second bid data, including a third bid and a fourth bid (fourth bid being at least as large as the third bid), Applicant asserts that Claims 38 and 40 are not anticipated by the Barzilai patent. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that Claims 38 and 40 are patentably distinguished over the cited reference and Applicant respectfully requests allowance of Claims 38 and 40.

Claims 39 which depends from Claim 38, is patentable for the same reasons articulated above with respect to Claim 38, and because of the additional features recited in Claim 39.

The Mori Patent

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The Examiner rejected Claims 38-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the Mori patent.

According to the Examiner, the Mori patent discloses an online product auction system, including microprocessor and storage media (e.g., figure 2), first and second bid data with first through fourth bids, wherein the second and fourth bids are at least as large as the first and third bids, respectively (e.g., column 2, line 28 et seq; column 6, line 19 et seq; column 7, line 5 et seq), bid processing module (e.g., column 10, line 24 et seq; column 11, line 5 et seq; column 14, line 3 et seq), current and new high bid calculation (e.g., column 11, line 5 et seq; column 12, line 32 et seq; column 14, line 3 et seq), and first and second calculation modes calculating a high bid when the product auction system is in a first and second state (e.g., determination of various states of competition; descending price method; concrete automatic auction method) (e.g., column 8, line 21 et seq; column 9, line 60 et seq; column 10, line 24 et seq; column 11, line 6 et seq; column 13, line 55 et seq).

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as previously pending are patentably distinguished over the Mori patent, because the reference, and the example portions within the reference, cited by the Examiner do not disclose, teach or suggest an invention comprising a first bid data, including a first bid and a second bid (second bid being at least as large as the first bid) and a second bid data, including a third bid and a fourth bid (fourth bid being at least as large as the third bid). Thus, the Applicant asserts that Claim 38 and 40 are not anticipated by the Mori patent. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that Claims 38 and 40 are patentably distinguished over the cited reference and Applicant respectfully requests allowance of Claims 38 and 40.

Claims 39 which depends from Claim 38, is patentable for the same reasons articulated above with respect to Claim 38, and because of the additional features recited in Claim 39.

REQUEST FOR TELEPHONE INTERVIEW

Pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 713.01, in order to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicant's undersigned attorney of record hereby formally requests a telephone interview with the Examiner as soon as the Examiner has considered the effect of the arguments presented above. Applicant's attorney can be reached at (949) 721-2814.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the forgoing, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested. If further issues remain to be resolved, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned such that any remaining issues may be promptly resolved. Also, please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 2/21/02

By:

Arthur S. Rose Registration No. 28,038 Attorney of Record 620 Newport Center Drive

Sixteenth Floor

Newport Beach, CA 92660

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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Office	Action	Summary	,
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Application No. Applicant(s)

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Examiner

Art Unit

WAGONER, Kevin J. et al

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4) 💢	Claim(s) 1-52	is/are	pending in the	application.
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5) 🗌	Claim(s)		is/are allowed.	
6) 💢	Claim(s) <u>38-40</u>		is/are rejected.	
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9) 🔯	The specification is objected to by the Examiner.			
10)	The drawing(s) filed onis/are	objected to by the Examiner.		
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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restriction

1. Applicant's election with traverse of the invention of Group VI (claims 38-40) in Paper No. 8 is acknowledged. The traversal appears to be on the ground(s) that newly-presented claims 47-52 link Group VI to the non-elected claims of Groups I-V and VII-XI. This is not found persuasive because the inventions recited in newly-presented claims 47-52 are not considered to be linking claims within the meaning of MPEP 809.03 (e.g., they are not genus claims linking species claims or any of the other common types recited in MPEP 809.03 (A)-(D)). Further, claims 47-52 are deemed to be patentably distinct from the invention recited in Group VI (claims 38-40) for the following reasons:

Inventions VI and claim 47 are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, Invention VI has separate utility such as providing an online product auction system including a microprocessor, storage media, first and second bid data and bid processing module that calculates a high bid for the first product. Further, claim 47 has separate utility such as providing an online product auction system with microprocessor, storage media, product information receive module to receive first product data including one or more seller parameters, a seller proxy module to modify the one or more seller parameters based on one or more auction parameters, a seller notification module to receive one or more auction events and notify the seller upon occurrence thereof, a bidder notification module to receive one or more bid events and notify the bidder upon occurrence thereof, a potential bidder notification module to

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product auctions that satisfy such auction search criteria, a bid processing module that determines a winning bidder for a first auction, an escrow module informing an escrow provider of a result of the first auction, and a sale consummation module receiving confirmation of an exchange of the first product and winning bid to remove the first auction from the auction center. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Invention VI and claim 48 are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, Invention VI has separate utility such as providing an online product auction system including a microprocessor, storage media, first and second bid data and bid processing module that calculates a high bid for the first product. Further, claim 48 has separate utility such as providing an online product auction system with microprocessor, storage media, product information receive module to receive first product data including one or more seller parameters, a seller proxy module to modify the one or more seller parameters based on one or more auction parameters, a bid processing module that determines a winning bidder for a first auction, an escrow module informing an escrow provider of a result of the first auction, and a sale consummation module receiving confirmation of an exchange of the first product and winning bid to remove the first auction from the auction center. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Invention VI and claim 49 are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, Invention VI has separate utility such as providing an online

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product auction system including a microprocessor, storage media, first and second bid data and bid processing module that calculates a high bid for the first product. Further, claim 49 has separate utility such as providing an online product auction system with microprocessor, storage media, product information receive module to receive first product data including one or more seller parameters, a seller proxy module to modify the one or more seller parameters based on one or more auction parameters, a bid processing module that determines a winning bidder for a first auction. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Claim 50 and Invention VI are related as process and apparatus for its practice. The inventions are distinct if it can be shown that either: (1) the process as claimed can be practiced by another materially different apparatus or by hand, or (2) the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process (MPEP § 806,05(e)). In this case the process of claim 50 can be practiced by another materially different apparatus that provides one or more auction parameters, receives one or more seller parameters, and modifies one or more seller parameters based on the one or more auction parameters, sets a current high bid as a sum of a proxy increment and the smaller of a second bid and fourth bid when a second condition is met, receives one or more auction events for a first product auction from a seller, notifies the seller upon occurrence of one or more auction events, receives one or more bid events from a bidder and notifies the bidder upon occurrence of such bid events, identify product auctions that satisfy one or more auction search criteria, informs an escrow provider of a winning bid to consummate an exchange, receives confirmation from the escrow provider, and removes the first product from the auction center. Additionally, the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and

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materially different process by calculating a new high bid for a first product with first and second bid data in which a second bid is at least as large as a first bid and a fourth bid is at least as large as a third bid.

Claim 51 and Invention VI are related as process and apparatus for its practice. The inventions are distinct if it can be shown that either: (1) the process as claimed can be practiced by another materially different apparatus or by hand, or (2) the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(e)). In this case the process of claim 51 can be practiced by another materially different apparatus that provides one or more auction parameters, receives one or more seller parameters, and modifies one or more seller parameters based on the one or more auction parameters, commences a first product auction with one or more seller and auction parameters, sets a current high bid to be larger than the smaller of a second and fourth bid when a first condition is met, sets a current high bid to be a sum of a proxy increment and the smaller of a second bid and fourth bid when a second condition is met, informs an escrow provider of a winning bid to consummate an exchange, receives confirmation from the escrow provider, and removes the first product from the auction center. Additionally, the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process by calculating a new high bid for a first product with first and second bid data in which a second bid is at least as large as a first bid and a fourth bid is at least as large as a third bid.

Claim 52 and Invention VI are related as process and apparatus for its practice. The inventions are distinct if it can be shown that either: (1) the process as claimed can be practiced by another materially different apparatus or by hand, or (2) the apparatus as claimed can be used to

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practice another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(e)). In this case the process of claim 52 can be practiced by another materially different apparatus that provides one or more auction parameters, receives one or more seller parameters, and modifies one or more seller parameters based on the one or more auction parameters, commences a first product auction with one or more seller and auction parameters, sets a current high bid to be larger than the smaller of a second and fourth bid when a first condition is met, and sets a current high bid to be a sum of a proxy increment and the smaller of a second bid and fourth bid when a second condition is met. Additionally, the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process by calculating a new high bid for a first product with first and second bid data in which a second bid is at least as large as a first bid and a fourth bid is at least as large as a third bid.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

2. Accordingly, claims 1-37 and 41-52 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to nonelected inventions, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in Paper No. 8.

Specification

- 3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:
- a. The reference on page 1, lines 2-6, page 16, lines 24-27, and page 22, lines 11-15 to co-pending U.S. Patent application serial number 09/231,049, filed January 14, 1999, should be amended to reflect the correct serial number: 09/231,409, filed January 14, 1999, and now U.S. patent 6,282,517.

Appropriate correction is required.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

- (e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 3710 of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.
- 5. Claims 38-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Fisher et al, U.S. patent 5,835,896.

Fisher et al disclose an online product auction system, including microprocessor and storage media (e.g., Figure 1; column 7, line 24 et seq), first and second bid data with first, second, third, and fourth bids, the second and fourth bids (e.g., proxy bids) (Figure 7) being at least as large as the first and third bids, respectively (e.g., column 9, line 17 et seq), bid processing module (e.g., column 10, line 5 et seq; column 11, line 20 et seq), current and new high bid (e.g., Figures 6-10; column 9, line 1 et seq; column 10, line 40 et seq; column 11, line 65 et seq).

Fisher et al also disclose first and second calculation modes to calculate a high bid in first and second respective states (e.g., "Dutch Auction" and "Progressive Auction" formats) (e.g., column 10, line 29 et seq).

6. Claims 38-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Barzilai et al, U.S. patent 6.012,045.

Barzilai et al disclose an online product auction system (e.g., column 1, line 52 et seq), including microprocessor and storage media (e.g., Figure 1), first and second bid data with first

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through fourth bids, wherein the second and fourth bids are at least as large as the first and third bids, respectively (e.g., Figures 6A-10; column 2, line 1 et seq; column 6, line 1 et seq; column 13, line 25 et seq; column 14, line 10 et seq; column 15, line 60 et seq), bid processing module (e.g., column 2, line 41 et seq; column 13, line 26 et seq), current and new high bid calculation (e.g., Figure 7; column 2, line 41 et seq; column 17, line 17 et seq; column 18, line 8 et seq).

Barzilai et al also disclose first and second calculation modes in first and second respective states (e.g., real play versus game play) (e.g., column 2, line 41 et seq; column 20, line 11 et seq).

7. Claims 38-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Mori et al, U.S. patent 6,044,363.

Mori et al disclose an online product auction system, including microprocessor and storage media (e.g., Figure 2), first and second bid data with first through fourth bids, wherein the second and fourth bids are at least as large as the first and third bids, respectively (e.g., column 2, line 28 et seq; column 6, line 19 et seq; column 7, line 5 et seq), bid processing module (e.g., column 10, line 24 et seq; column 11, line 5 et seq; column 14, line 3 et seq), current and new high bid calculation (e.g., column 11, line 5 et seq; column 12, line 32 et seq; column 14, line 3 et seq).

First and second calculation modes calculating a high bid when the product auction system is in a first and second state (e.g., determination of various states of competition; descending price method; concrete automatic auction method) (e.g., column 8, line 21 et seq; column 9, line 60 et seq; column 10, line 24 et seq; column 11, line 6 et seq; column 13, line 55 et seq).

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Conclusion

- 8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
 - a. Luke et al, U.S. patent 6,131,087.
 - b. Woolston, U.S. patent 5,845,265.
- 9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jim Calve, whose telephone number is (703) 308-1884. The examiner can be reached on Monday through Friday from 6:45 am to 6:45 pm. If the examiner is unavailable, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin, may be reached at 703-308-1065. The fax number of the organization is 703-308-9051/9052. Any inquiry of a general nature should be directed to the receptionist at 703-305-3900.

JPC

August 14, 2001

VINCENT MILLIN SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

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JPU	5,592,375	1/7/97	Salmon et al.				
JPC	5,671,279	9/23/97	Elgamal				
SPC	5,710,887	1/20/98	Chelliah et al.				_
JPC	5,774,873	6/30/98	Berent et al.				
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